

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 687

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AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 200

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,CA

SUBJECT: QUEBEC S OPEN QUOTES THIRD FORCE CLOSE QUOTES

IN LIMBO

REF: QUEBEC 196

1. RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ALLIANCE BETWEEN QUEBEC S CONSERVATIVE SPLINTER PARTIES REMAINS IN DISARRAY AFTER A WEEK OF BITTER PUBLIC WRANGLING. JEROME CHOQUETTE OF PNP STARTED IMBROGLIO ON AUGUST 7 WITH WHAT LE DEVOIR DESCRIBED AS OPEN QUOTES SPECTACULAR VOLTE-FACE CLOSE QUOTES. DESPITE HIS RESIGNATION LAST YEAR FROM LIBERAL PARTY BECAUSE HE WANTED BILL 22 ENFORCED MORE RIGOROUSLY, CHOQUETTE TOOK POSITION ON AUGUST 7 THAT PARENTS SHOULD BE FREE TO DECIDE THEIR CHILDREN S LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION IN QUEBEC SCHOOLS. RODRIGUE BIRON, STILL SMARTING FROM APPARENTLY LOSS OF UN PARTY LEADERSHIP HE HAD ENJOYED FOR ONLY TWO MONTHS, ANNOUNCED IN RADIO INTERVIEW ON AUGUST 8 THAT HE PLANNED MEETING WITH CHOQUETTE TO OPEN QUOTES CORRECT CLOSE QUOTES (CORRIGER) LATTER S POSITION ON LANGUAGE POLICY. IN HOT REJOINDER, CHOQUETTE ON AUGUST 9 TOLD PRESS HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT OPEN QUOTES CORRECTION CLOSE QUOTES FROM BIRON AND CASTIGATED LATTER FOR OPEN QUOTES PUBLICLY CONTRADICTING HIM CLOSE QUOTES.

2. COMMENT:

IT APPEARS INEVITABLE THAT ONE OF THESE STRONG WILLED

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GENTLEMEN WILL POLITICALLY ELEMENATE THE OTHER. COULD BE,

AS ONE JOURNALIST SUGGESTED RECENTLY THAT UN OPEN QUOTES
GODFATHER, CLOSE QUOTES MAURICE BELLEMARE HAS ARRANGED
BYZANTINE SITUATION IN WHICH TWO TROUBLESOME RIVALS WILL
NEUTRALIZE EACH OTHER LEAVING LEADERSHIP OF RIGHT AGAIN UP
FOR GRABS. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THIS PARTICULAR TEMPEST,
IT GIVES LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE WHO SEEK AN EFFECTIVE
FEDERALIST ALTERNATIVE TO THE RULING LIBERAL PARTY GOVERNMENT.
MCNAMARA

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